

CLAIMS

1. A method of allowing a customer to place a wager on gaming action with a merchant through an electronic transaction, the method comprising the steps:

- 5 a) establishing a deposit account for the customer with an escrow account provider;
- b) placing the wager for the gaming action with the merchant;
- c) determining the type of wager;
- d) transferring funds for the wager from the deposit account to a prescribed account depending on the type of wager;
- 10 e) notifying the merchant that the funds for the wager have been transferred;
- f) verifying the merchant can cover the wager;
- g) transferring the funds for the wager from the prescribed account to an action account during pendency of the gaming action; and
- 15 h) transferring funds for the wager from the action account to one of the merchant and the customer.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the completion of the gaming action will result in one of a win and a loss, and step (h) comprises transferring funds to the customer for a win and transferring funds to the merchant for a loss.

20 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (f) further comprises suspending play if the merchant does not have sufficient funds to cover the wager.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein step (f) further comprises resuming play when the merchant has funds to cover the wager.

25 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the merchant has a gaming post up account and step (f) comprises verifying the merchant can cover the wager with the funds in the gaming post-up account.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the wager may be for either a sports book or a casino and step (c) comprises determining whether the wager is for the sports book or the casino.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein step (d) further comprises transferring funds to a casino cage for a casino action or transferring the funds to a gaming post up account for a sports book action.